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But although she had met with but little opposition in having Erik elected king of the three countries, she seems to have found it impossible to induce the representatives at Kalmar to frame a constitution to her liking. To judge from her whole life, she had evidently contended for a strictly hereditary and unlimited monarchy, whereas Sweden and Denmark favored an elective one and their representatives succeeded in getting their ideas incorporated into the constitution. Moreover, from all the acts of her reign it is evident that she stood for the supremacy of Denmark, not for a union of three independent countries, as the constitution vouchsafed. These disagreeable elements no doubt account for the fact that Margaret never took the necessary steps to make the document valid. She seems to have let it go by default, for there is no trace of any copies of this first draft having been made for each of the countries in accordance with the stipulations of the original draft. Moreover, the document does not bear the seal of a single Norwegian representative. Miss Hill repeats the error of the older writers on this subject when she speaks of the instrument framed at Kalmar as one that became legally binding, and says: "Two exact copies of this treaty, written on parchment, were given to each kingdom, to which four prelates and thirteen gentlemen 'freely and voluntarily' placed their seals."

It is to be regretted that Miss Hill has not had access to any of the modern historians of Scandinavia. She speaks of the scantiness of her material, and it is indeed scanty when she knows only one unimportant Scandinavian writer of this century. The greater historical writers of all of the Scandinavian countries have of course discussed Margaret, but the authority on her is Professor Christian Erslev of the Copenhagen University, whose work entitled "*Dronning Margarethe og Kalmarunionens Grundlæggelse*," 1882, is a most reliable account of the great Northern queen, based on the most searching investigation of original sources. The light he casts on the dark epoch of Margaret's reign, when intellectual life was at its lowest ebb, leaves her a ruler of less heroic mould than the traditional Margaret, and detracts much from the significance of the convention at Kalmar. Meanwhile, until some one gives us in English the story of Margaret's life based on Erslev's work, we are grateful to Miss Hill for her book, which, like the old authorities on which it is based, is correct enough in dates and the superficial facts of her life, but not to be relied upon for a just and critical estimate of Margaret and her times.

JULIUS E. OLSON.

*Catalogue of the Library of Syon Monastery, Isleworth.* Edited by MARY BATESON, Associate and Lecturer of Newnham College, Cambridge. (Cambridge: University Press. 1898. Pp. xxx, 262.)

SYON Monastery was founded under the rule of St. Bridget in 1415 near Twickenham, was transferred to Isleworth in 1431 and was dissolved in 1539. It contained two libraries, one for monks and the other for nuns. This catalogue, which represents the monks' library, was com-

piled about 1504 and was added to and corrected, but not improved, by later hands up to the year 1526. It is now manuscript 141 of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. The catalogue consists of (1) a classified list of 1421 works, manuscript and printed, giving the title, shelf-number, name of donor and the first two words of the second folio of each work, (2) an alphabetical author-index. Miss Bateson has provided her edition of this work with an introduction, notes, a fac-simile page and several valuable supplements and appendices. Perhaps the most valuable of the original contributions, is the identification of more than 400 editions of the printed works by means of the catch-words. The identification of actual copies has been so difficult that only six volumes out of the whole number are known to be now in existence.

The value of the document itself is chiefly for the history of monastic life and for the history of books and libraries. Much of this has been drawn out by Miss Bateson in her introduction and notes. It appears that the monks had little use for anything but Latin,—one Hebrew, three Greek, four French, and twenty-six English works representing the total of alien tongues in this large library; but the Latin books showed a model literary taste, at the same time classical and up to date.

The catalogue touches civil history in the list of donors at several points, notably in the names of Richard Reynold, hanged for denying the royal supremacy in 1535, and Richard Whytford the friend of More.

In the matter of library history this catalogue contributes many interesting items. It was curiously modern in many respects. It was classified and its notation, in which the class-number is a letter and the book-number a figure, points to a system of "relative location," whether the numbers painted "*ad extra*" were on the book or on the case; if the former then it was strict "relative location." Miss Bateson reasons out, from the fact of the library losses, the presumption that the library was, like many other monastic libraries of the time, an outside-lending library. She fails, however, to note that the great number of duplicates, which she ascribes to the natural disinclination to refuse a gift, points in the same direction. If it were an outside-lending library duplication would be only natural.

Altogether, under the skillful handling of Miss Bateson this at first sight somewhat unfruitful-looking source suggests many an interesting line of research into the history of culture. The work of editing, as might have been expected, is excellently done.

ERNEST CUSHING RICHARDSON.

*Ouvriers du Temps Passé (XV<sup>e</sup>—XVI<sup>e</sup> Siècles).* Par H. HAUSER, Professeur à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Clermont-Ferrand. (Paris: Félix Alcan. 1899. Pp. xxxviii, 252.)

WHETHER it is that the time we live in is an age of disenchantment or simply that every subject of investigation regularly passes from a first idyllic stage into later and calmer conceptions; whether our critical